

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8194

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 5752

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TU

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS-GREENFIELD PROPOSALS

REF: VANCE/GOUGH TELECON OF SEPT 10

1. PURSUANT REF TELECON, FOLLOWING BACKGROUND INFO, OBTAINED INTER ALIA FROM INCB SECRETARY DITTERT AND ACTING HEAD OF UN NARCOTICS LABORATORY LUMSDEN, MAY BE USEFUL TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IN CONNECTION GREENFIELD PROPOSALS.

2. LUMSDEN BELIEVES THAT GIVEN MAXIMUM EFFORT STRAW PROCESSING PLANT COULD BE CONSTRUCTED IN BETWEEN SIX AND NINE MONTHS, THUS PERMITTING TURKEY TO PROCESS ITS OWN FIRST CROP. FASTEST WAY PROCEED MIGHT BE FOR GOT TO CONTRACT WITH NATIONAL OR INTERNATIONAL DRUG FIRM TO CONSTRUCT PLANT AND POSSIBLY FINANCE CONSTRUCTION. IN THIS CONNECTION COMPANIES FROM FOLLOWING COUNTRIES REPORTEDLY MADE PROPOSALS OVER LAST YEAR TO GOVT OF INDIA FOR CONSTRUCTION SECONDARY STRAW PROCESSING PLANT THERE: NETHERLANDS, ARGENTINA, YUGOSLAVIA, BELGIUM AND POLAND. NORWEGIAN COMPANY (WEIDER PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY OF OSLO) EXPRESSED INTEREST IN PAST IN CONSTRUCTING POPPY STRAW PROCESSING PLANT IN TURKEY AND MIGHT ALSO BE POSSIBILITY. WE ASSUME THAT MALLINKRODT OR SOME OTHER AMERICAN FIRM MIGHT ALSO BE INTERESTED.

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3. ASSUMING THAT FACTORY CANNOT BE BUILT QUICKLY AND IT

WILL THEREFORE BE NECESSARY FOR TURKEY TO EXPORT UNINCISED STRAW, THERE WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE MARKET IN SHORT-TERM EVEN THOUGH TRADITIONAL STRAW PRODUCERS ARE EXPECTED INCREASE THEIR PRODUCTION. REASONS ARE INCREASING DEMAND FOR CODEINE, SHORTFALL IN INDIAN PRODUCTION AGAIN THIS YEAR AND CONSEQUENTIAL REDUCTION OF OPIUM AND POPPY STRAW STOCKS. IN LATTER CONNECTION, NETHERLANDS OFFICIAL SAMSON RECENTLY TOLD DITTERT IN CONFIDENCE THAT NETHERLANDS, WHICH IN PAST MAINTAINED STRAW STOCKS OF BETWEEN 5,000 AND 7,000 TONS, WILL AS FROM END OF SEPTEMBER HAVE NO RAW MATERIAL TO PROCESS. NETHERLANDS WOULD THEREFORE SEEM LIKELY PROSPECT AS MAJOR IMPORTER TURKISH STRAW.

4. POSSIBLE IMPORTERS MIGHT ALSO BE COUNTRIES WHICH NOW IMPORT AND PROCESS POPPY STRAW FOR EXTRACTION MORPHINE OR DID SO IN PAST: ARGENTINA, BULGARIA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, DENMARK, FRANCE, HUNGARY, NORWAY, POLAND, ROMANIA AND YUGOSLOVIA.

5. IN EVENT STRAW COULD NOT BE IMMEDIATELY EXPORTED, WE UNDERSTAND FROM LUMSDEN THAT FROM TECHNICAL POINT OF VIEW DRY STRAW COULD BE STOCKED IN TURKEY. IN THIS CONNECTION, AS IS NOTED ABOVE, NETHERLANDS IN PAST MAINTAINED LARGE STRAW STOCKS.
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